



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

March 2007

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218. (804) 698-4055 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

The Great American Cleanup

Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup runs from March 1 – May 31, 2007.

Thirteen organizations in Virginia are registered participants. They are:

- ✓ **City of Chesapeake** – Gail M. Bradshaw (757) 382-6411 or gbradshaw@cityofchesapeake.net
- ✓ **Clean Fairfax Council** – Rosemary Byrne (703) 324-5471 or rcbyrne@aol.com
- ✓ **Clean Community Committee of Gloucester County** – Sara Delo (804) 693-5370 or sdelo@gloucesterva.info
- ✓ **Hampton Clean City Commission** – Debbie Blanton (757) 727-6394 or hccc@hampton.gov
- ✓ **Citizens for a Clean Lynchburg, Inc.** – Ken Smith (434) 384-0857 or kgsdls@aol.com
- ✓ **City of Newport News Public Works Department** – Mayi C. Henriquez (757) 269-2782 or mhenriquez@nngov.com
- ✓ **Keep Norfolk Beautiful** – John Deuel (757) 441-1347 or john.deuel@norfolk.gov
- ✓ **Portsmouth Clean Community Commission** – Yilla J. Smith (757) 393-5628 or (757) 393-5628 or smithy@portsmouthva.gov
- ✓ **Prince William Clean Community Council** – Brenda Evans (703) 792-6272 or bevans@pwcleanCouncil.org
- ✓ **Richmond Clean City Commission** – Billie M. Raines (804) 646-6785 or braines@ci.richmond.va.us
- ✓ **Keep Spotsylvania Clean** – Clara Mills (757) 582-7055 or cmills@spotsylvania.va.us
- ✓ **Keep Suffolk Beautiful** – Angela Mills (757) 923-2143 or amills@city.suffolk.va.us
- ✓ **Frederick County Clean Sweep** – Gloria Puffinburger (540) 665-5643 or gpuffinb@co.frederick.va.us

If your organization would like to be listed on the KAB website as a participant, fax a letter to KAB to request an application. The fax number is (203) 325-9199. Or, you can email your request to gac@kab.org

Did You Know?

- ✓ Stewardship Virginia is April 1 – May 31, 2007. Complete a registration form to advertise your environmental events and give them additional exposure by going to <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship/index.htm>. Spring events will be posted by April 1, 2007. Contact Bonnie Phillips at 1-877-42-WATER or bonnie.phillips@dcr.virginia.gov
- ✓ On May 1 and 2, the Virginia Recycling Association will hold its annual conference in Williamsburg, in partnership with the Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and the SWANA Old Dominion Chapter. The conference will be held at the Woodlands Hotel & Suites in Williamsburg. For more information about the litter programs contact Clara Mills at (540) 507-7709 or cmills@spotsylvania.va.us To register go to: <http://www.vrarecycles.org/>
- ✓ Earth Day is officially Sunday, April 22, 2007; however, many localities will be celebrating throughout the month of April with litter cleanups and other environmental events. Let me know what you are planning so that I can list it in "Litter Picks." Contact Sheila Barnett at (804)698-4055 or smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov

Virginia's Spring Clean up is April 14, 2007

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) encourages people that have adopted stretches of road through the Adopt-a-Highway program to schedule a trash pick up on April 14. Traditionally, Virginia's Spring Cleanup is held the Saturday before Virginia Garden Week. Contact your local Adopt-a-Highway coordinator to get the orange trash bags and vests. Go to:

<http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-coords.asp>

Be sure to contact VDOT after you do a pick up so that they can make a record of the cleanup. This is how VDOT knows that people who have adopted stretches of road are actively participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

If individuals know of stretches of road that need to be cleaned, VDOT will also welcome volunteers who wish to do a one-time clean up.

Litter Picks Continued

Calendar of Events 2007

March

- 24 **Lynchburg** March on Litter, Meet at the Lynchburg Community Market (12th and Main Streets). 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Contact Ken Smith at (434) 384-0857 or kgsdls@aol.com
- 24 **Keep Norfolk Beautiful** Day, Citywide. Contact Holly Carson (757) 441-1347 or holly.carson@norfolk.gov
- 31 **Roanoke Clean Valley** Litter Pickup. Contact Ann Masters at 540-345-5523 or ann@cleanvalley.org for details .

April

- 6 **Hampton** Tour de Trash, Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration Required. Contact Debbie Blanton at (757) 727-6776 or hccc@hampton.gov
- 21 **Chesterfield County** Environmental Fair. Chesterfield Towne Center, 11500 Midlothian Turnpike 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Contact Pamela Cooper (804) 751-2227 or cooperp@chesterfield.gov
- 21 Earth Day at Claytor Lake State Park, **Pulaski**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information call (540) 643-2500 or email claytorlake@dcv.virginia.gov
- 21 Earth Day Celebration, Three Lakes Park **Henrico County**, 1 – 4 p.m. Contact Megan Brown at 804-501-4502, Ext. 4 or bro77@co.henrico.va.us
- 21 **Keep Loudoun Beautiful** canoe cleanup, Goose Creek 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Go to <http://www.keeploudounbeautiful.org/KLBcanoe.html> for more information.
- 22 Earth Day, **Charlottesville**, Meade Park, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information go to www.earthweek.org/ecofair.asp
- 28 **Clean Fairfax Council** Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Rosemary Byrne at (703) 324-5471 or rcbyrne@aol.com

Fauquier County Trash Pickup Program

On January 8, 2007, the Office of Adult Court Services decided that when people in Fauquier County are assigned to do court ordered community services, they will be picking up litter along the roads. Pickup crews are supervised by a probation officer. In the past, the person was able to choose how they would fulfill their community service obligation. These people are now assigned to a pick up crew which goes out three days a week and on Saturdays.

For more information contact Deborah Van Leer at (540) 347-6811, Ext. 18 or deb.vanleer@fauquiercounty.gov

Assign-a-Highway in the News

On January 10, 2007 **Bland County** implemented the Assign-a-Highway Program. As of February 20, 2007, there were two participants. The circuit court is giving people on probation the opportunity to participate in the Assign-a-Highway program. He expects the program to grow if it is also adopted by the general district court too. Probationers report their pick ups to James Belcher, the Animal and Litter Control Officer for the county. For more information about Bland County's Assign-a-Highway program, contact Rodney Ratliff, Public Works Director, at (276) 688-4622 or rratliff.bland.co@state.va.us

Henry County Litter Bug Watchers Program

Gaylan Williams, the Director of the Assign-a-Highway program for Henry County, has crafted a letter to send to people who citizens anonymously report as littering. Although nobody receiving the letter will be prosecuted, they will be reminded of the litter laws. Mr. Williams hopes to change the attitude and habits of litter bugs by sending them a letter. In his letter he writes; "Unless we can change the littering problem in our area, it's like mopping the bathroom floor with the toilet still running over."

Citizens who wish to report littering are encouraged to call the Sheriff's nonemergency number and report vehicle information and a description of the driver if possible.

Mr. Williams has issued warnings to non-county residents who have been dumping illegally in Henry County. He believes that his presence is starting to deter illegal dumping and littering within the county.

Contact Lois Christensen, Gateway Streetscape Foundation, Inc, 276-634-4674 gateway@co.henry.va.us

Jurisdictions make Litter and Recycling Grants Available

On April 28, 2007, students who received a litter prevention and recycling grant from the **Clean Fairfax Council** and the **Fairfax County Recycling Program**, will present their projects at the Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration in Fairfax County.

Awards for up to \$500 each are awarded in January and the projects must be completed in April so that they can be presented during the festival.

Contact Rosemary Byrne, Executive Director, Clean Fairfax Council at (703) 324-5471 or rcbyrne@aol.com or visit the Clean Fairfax Council website at www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org

Hampton Roads teachers, youth leaders and organizations are eligible to apply for competitive mini-grants of up to \$250. Projects need to focus on litter prevention, waste minimization, recycling, beautification, resource conservation, or pollution prevention. Applications must be submitted by the 15th of each month to be reviewed by 15th of the next month.

For more information about the grants available in the Hampton Roads region, contact Julia Hillegrass at (757) 420-8300 or jhillegra@hrpdc.org

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